

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAB-01 /106 W

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R 022223Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2513

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4690

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNRWA

SUBJECT: UNRWA SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR BENNETT MORNING OCTOBER 1 ON DIRECTION OF SYG TO REPORT SITUATION HAS BECOME DESPERATE WITH RESPECT UNWRA OPERATIONS. HE SAID SIR JOHN RENNIE WOULD BE ARRIVING NEW YORK SHORTLY TO DISCUSS SITUATION. HE SAID THAT DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN THAT ALL UNRWA ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED OCTOBER 31 DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS. BENNETT ASKED IF HE MEANT TO SAY ALL UNDERLINE ALL ACTIVITIES AND GUYER REPLIED THAT ALL UNDERLINE ALL WOULD BE SUSPENDED. THE OPERATION IS \$13 MILLION IN DEFICIT; THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING PLEDGES; APPROACHES TO ARABS HAVE NOT
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BROUGHT MEANINGFUL RESPONSE. THE TILL IS EMPTY AND UNWRA WILL

SHUT DOWN ON OCTOBER 31, SAID GUYER. BENNETT SAID HE WOULD PASS ON THE WORD.

2. UNRWA NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE VAN WIJK HAS, AT OUR REQUEST, ELABORATED ON GUYER'S PRESENTATION. VAN WIJK SAID RENNIE IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT UNRWAS WILL NO LONGER BE FINANCIALLY VIABLE INSTITUTION IF \$13 MILLION DEFICIT IS NOT COVERED BY OCTOBER 31, AND WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO SUSPEND ALL SERVICES. RENNIE MAY RECOMMEND THIS COURSE TO SECRETARY GENERAL, BUT ACCORDING TO VAN WIJK NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. WHAT EVIDENTLY CONCERNS RENNIE IS LESS THE REDUCTION IN RATIONS AND TEACHER LAY-OFFS WHICH HE WOULD HAVE TO SET IN MOTION IF \$13 MILLION IS NOT FORTHCOMING THIS MONTH, BUT RATHER THE "ACCRUED LIABILITIES" WHICH AGENCY WOULD HAVE TO PAY ONCE SERVICES ARE REDUCED. TERMINATION PAY FOR DISMISSED TEACHERS IS APPARENTLY LARGEST OF SUCH LIABILITIES.

3. BEGIN NOFORN. QUESTION OF "ACCRUED LIABILITIES" WAS ADDRESSED BY RENNIE IN LETTER TO VAN WIJK BEFORE RECENT UNRWA WORKING GROUP (WG) MEETING. RENNIE WANTED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH INCLUDED IN SPECIAL WG REPORT TO GA ON UNRWA'S CRITICAL FINANCIAL SITUATION (POUCHED ADDRESSEES,) BUT VAN WIJK DECIDED AGAINST THIS AS INCLUSION OF RENNIE'S LANGUAGE WOULD HAVE UNDULY DELAYED WG REPORT WHILE MEMBERS REFERRED MATTER TO CAPITALS. RELEVANT PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS FROM RENNIE'S LETTER TO VAN WIJK, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE:

"THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL HAS ALSO INFORMED THE WORKING GROUP THAT, AS UNRWA WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET ITS ACCRUED LIABILITIES BY THE END OF OCTOBER, HE CONSIDERS HE SHOULD HAVE SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM THE GA TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS BEYOND THIS POINT INSTEAD OF SUSPENDING THEM COMPLETELY. THIS AUTHORIZATION WOULD NECESSARILY IMPLY AN UNDERTAKING BY THE GA TO MEET FROM UN FUNDS ANY OUTSTANDING CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES SUCH AS TERMINATION INDEMNITIES TO LOCAL STAFF." END NOFORN.

4. SO FAR AS VAN WIJK IS AWARE, US IS ONLY MISSION
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APPROACHED BY GUYER.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750343-0265
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751090/aaaadcja.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES
TAGS: SREF, AORG, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006